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National Survey on Drug Use and Health

Answering Your Important Questions



What Is the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)?

The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) is the Federal Government's primary source of national data on the use of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit substances. The survey also contains questions on health, illegal behaviors, and other topics associated with substance use. The study was initiated in 1971 and currently is conducted on an annual basis. This year approximately 70,000 individuals, 12 years old and older, will be randomly selected and asked to voluntarily participate.

The primary objectives of NSDUH are:

- to provide accurate data on the level and patterns of alcohol, tobacco, and illegal substance use and abuse;
- to track trends in the use of alcohol, tobacco, and various types of drugs;
- to assess the consequences of substance use and abuse; and
- to identify those groups at high risk for substance use and abuse.

Sponsored by

Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

U.S. Public Health Service

U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services

Why Should I Participate?

- NSDUH is the primary source of national data on the use of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit substances. By volunteering in this study, you are helping us gather this important information that is needed to make accurate policy decisions.
- Individual residents of selected households, who are randomly chosen and agree to participate, are given a cash payment of \$30 at the end of the interview.
- If selected to participate, you will represent over 4,500 other United States residents. Since our sample is selected based on scientific random sampling, no other household or person can be substituted.
- By participating in this study, you will be assisting with the formation of public policy.

Conducted by

Research Triangle Institute
3040 Cornwallis Road
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

What is the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)?

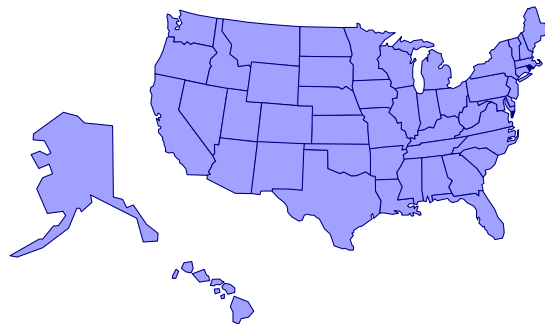
The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is an agency of the U.S. Public Health Service in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). SAMHSA provides leadership and a Federal focus for the Nation's mental health and substance abuse treatment and prevention programs. NSDUH is used to help facilitate this mission by monitoring the nature and extent of substance use in the United States, as well as the consequences of this use.

How Does the Government Conduct the Study?

Under a competitive bidding process, SAMHSA selects a survey research organization to administer NSDUH. Currently, Research Triangle Institute (RTI) is under contract to conduct NSDUH through 2013. RTI, which is located in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, and closely associated with the University of North Carolina, Duke University, and North Carolina State University, is a large, experienced research organization that has conducted NSDUH since 1988.

How Was I Selected?

A scientific random sample of households is selected throughout the United States. Once selected, no other residence can be substituted for any reason. A professional RTI interviewer makes a personal visit to each household to ask several initial questions. One or possibly two residents of your household may be asked to voluntarily participate in the survey. If you are selected, no other person can be substituted. Since the survey is based on a random sample, you will represent over 4,500 other United States residents.



How Will the Data Be Used?

Government agencies, private organizations, individual researchers, and the public at large use the data for a number of purposes. For example, the U.S. Public Health Service and state health agencies use data from NSDUH to estimate the need for drug treatment facilities. Other federal, state, and local agencies use the information to support their drug use prevention programs and to monitor drug control strategies.

What if I Do Not Smoke, Drink or Use Illegal Drugs?

In order to know the percentage of people who do use these substances, we also have to know how many people do not. Therefore, the responses of people who do not use drugs are just as important as those of people who do. You do not need to know anything about drugs to answer the questions. In addition, we ask a number of health-related questions that are relevant for all people.

How Is the Study Administered?

NSDUH data are collected in the privacy of the participant's home. A professional RTI interviewer personally visits each selected household to administer the NSDUH questionnaire using a laptop computer. For some items, the interviewer reads questions and enters the responses into the computer; however, the participant privately enters most responses directly into the computer. The survey takes about an hour to complete.



What Happens to My Information?

Each computerized interview data file—which is identified only by a code number—is electronically transmitted to RTI on the same day the interview is conducted. The answers then are combined with all other participants' answers, and are coded, totaled, and turned into statistics for analysis. As a quality-control measure, you may receive a telephone call or a letter from RTI to verify that the interviewer did complete the survey with you.

CONFIDENTIAL

Will My Answers Be Kept Confidential?

Both SAMHSA and RTI are committed to assuring complete confidentiality of responses. Our interest is only in the combination of all responses nationwide—not anyone's individual answers. Your full name is never recorded or associated with your answers. The information is only used for statistical purposes and cannot be used for any other purpose. Confidentiality of all answers to questions in this survey is assured under Federal law, the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA). Any project staff or authorized data user who violates CIPSEA may be subject to a jail term of up to 5 years, a fine of up to \$250,000, or both.